



**Minutes of the Assembly of Table Captains  
Annapolis 10/15/2023**

**Present:**

Chesapeake Bay: Peter Briggs, Peter Dennant, Scott Ripley  
Corpus Christi: Brad Stokes (by Zoom)  
Houston: J.D. Thompson, Bill Hallmark (both by Zoom)  
New York: Tony Olmer, Jane Protzman (by Zoom), Robert Coles  
Sailing Capital: Ramzi Bannura, Dave Trawick  
San Antonio: Monty Rogers, Charles Hankins  
Savannah: John Byrne  
Solomons: John Dove, Tom Connery  
Sun Coast: John D'Alusio

**Absent:**

Gold Coast  
Puerto Rico

The meeting was called to order at 8:45 am.

After roll call by National Bosun Tom Connery, Host Ramzi Bannura read the Octolog. Tony Olmer reviewed some of the history of the US BOC which will be published in a separate document once transcribed. It is important to note that it was Scotty Smith, Jane Protzman, Art Steiner, and Rene Fiechter who resuscitated the NY Table and the US BOC which was in danger of collapse. The original founders were a stellar group of single-handed sailors, members of the Slocum Society, but without aggressive recruiting the NY Table was dwindling. Over the years the US BOC has successfully countered a number of challenges from malcontent Brothers, with special thanks to Charles Fine who used his legal talents in this effort.

Tony pointed out that the reason for having a Captain and a second represented at the Assembly is to train another person should the Table Captain become incapacitated.

By unanimous vote the Meeting Minutes of June 18, 2023 were approved.

International Vigie Scott Ripley mentioned that the International Zoom Meeting, held the first Sunday of the month, is an important tool to disseminate information about international events and also a great way to foster communications among the participants. The Berlin Goose Fair will be offered but, while not as big an affair as before, overseas visitors are still welcome. There is no new information from Chile re the upcoming World Zaf but information will be shared as soon as it's available. Jane Protzman also mentioned that the Dusseldorf Boat Show was worth a visit.

The Treasurer reported there is \$3,179.94 on hand.

The US Roster has been updated by Joe Citarella thanks to updates sent in by US Captains. Puerto Rico and Savannah have not been updated yet. There was some discussion about the value of Facebook as one means to keep Brothers updated on Table events. First Watch was mentioned as a good vehicle to spotlight stories and history of the US BOC.

Tony distributed a copy of the US BOC Brochure which he and Joe Citarella updated. It was agreed that the Brochure is a very effective way to introduce the Brotherhood to people potentially interested. It can be printed locally from the PDF which is available.

Tony brought up the recurring problem of rejuvenating the US BOC. The NY Table is aging and in danger of disappearing. For a number of reasons Fort Lauderdale and Savannah are in danger of collapse. Brothers have passed on, others have moved away making it difficult to find leaders. Tables are only as good as their Captains. Tom Connery recently moved to Savannah and has agreed to try to revitalize the Table but knows it will take time. Perhaps we can find someone to do the same with Fort Lauderdale. John Byrne recommended organizing the Roster to better reflect the active Brothers in each Table as well as Brothers that are associated with the Table but have moved away and therefore do not participate in local Table activities.

Dave Trawick felt that you shouldn't necessarily look to your friends to become new Brothers as they might not fit. You need to look to others that you feel would be leaders, get to know them and see if they are interested in the Brotherhood. He agrees the brochure is valuable in introducing the Brotherhood to prospective members. He also felt it is important that when a person becomes an Engage or a Brother that their bio be read so that everyone can know their background and who they are. Ramzi stated that he was very impressed with the caliber of our group and that it is valuable to let new prospects know who we are so they can better understand what the Brotherhood is all about.

Brad Stokes said that recruiting new Brothers should be the goal of every Table and the responsibility of every Brother. He also brought up the idea of Tables committing to adding one new Brother per year in order to replenish their ranks and rejuvenate the Table.

JD Thompson explained that he wanted to get the Brotherhood brand and logo out there more so people can understand what we are all about so he started having monthly gatherings at local bars where they would dress up like pirates and fly their flags. He encouraged Brothers to invite their friends to these gatherings so they can be looked at as possible Pasajeros. He agreed that inducting at least one Brother a year is a good goal even though it may not always happen.

Robert Coles mentioned the issue of female Brothers and Tony stated that this is something that is handled by each Table as they see fit, as is the use of the terms "Captives or Mates".

### **New Business**

The World Zaf 2023 is officially closed. This Zaf paid for itself and generated a profit of \$538, with a special mention of the efforts by Traci Hoekstra to negotiate more favorable hotel terms. Rick Hoekstra and Scott Ripley are commended for providing seed funds to secure venues for the World Zaf.

The For Merit medal was awarded to Scott Ripley, Robert Coles, Joe Citarella and Rick Hoekstra (recognizing the efforts of Traci Hoekstra) for their contributions to the success of the World Zaf as well as their ongoing efforts furthering the US BOC.

The World Zaf 2026 in Chile will most likely be in Southern Chile in the Fall. As soon as information is received it will be distributed to Brothers.

The Chesapeake Bay Table is organizing a Zaf in conjunction with the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United States and the arrival of 55 Tall Ships in Norfolk in June 2026. They would also like to host the Captains Meeting at that time but they don't want to take away from the Chilean World Zaf. It was discussed that this could be a potential problem and was felt that they would know more once the details of the World Zaf are announced.

The Greatest Dictionary was discussed. Currently it contains Brothers Bios which is not the Dictionary's purpose. There needs to be some effort to rationalize what the Dictionary was intended to be with its current focus. Tony will work with Secoin on the purpose of the Dictionary and possibly separating the bios into a separate document. In the meantime he asked Peter Dennant to help collect bios of US Brothers that can be sent to Secoin for inclusion in either the Dictionary or a separate document.

A comprehensive plan is needed to archive US BOC materials. Without something like a digital archive, these materials are in danger of disappearing. This is a continuous item of discussion and needs to be addressed.

John D'Alusio stated that at the 2019 Captains Meeting it was agreed that the Guide needs to be updated and a committee was put together but nothing ever happened. Bill Hallmark said he had worked on this along with Bill Streep, Rick Hoekstra and Charlie Hankins and will forward what he has to Tony. JD mentioned that years ago discussions were had on preserving Brotherhood logos and documents and that that if we could revisit those discussions it might be helpful. John Delusio will forward whatever minutes he was involved with to Tony. It was agreed that this needs to be revisited and should be an agenda item at the next meeting.

Robert Coles made an emphatic plea for someone to function as a backup for the BOCUS.org website. This also needs to be addressed at the next meeting.

Publication of a calendar of events was brought up. It was suggested that it be put on the website. Both Tony and Robert said this had already been done and nothing ever happened with it. It was then suggested that zaf dates be forwarded to Joe Citarella who can forward them to the Table Captains.

The next Quarterly Zoom Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 1900 Eastern time.

With no further business brought before the Assembly, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Joe Citarella aka Sparks – National Scribe

*Sparks*

## **AGENDA**

### **Assembly of Table Captains Sailing Capital October 15, 2023**

**Roll Call** National Bosum Brother Salty

**Reading of the Octalog** Sailing Capital Captain Brother Rambo

**Introduction by the National Captain** Brother Rascal

**Approval of the July 18, 2023 minutes**

**Vigie's report** Brother Cruz

**Treasurer's report** Brother Old Man

#### **Old Business**

- U.S Roster
- BOC Brochure

#### **New Business**

- Closing of the World Zaf 2023
- World Zaf 2026 Chile
- Norfolk 2026
- Discussion on the Great Dictionary to include U.S. Brothers
- US Table Captains' Quarterly Assembly next date

**Any other business that may come before the Assembly.**

**End of the Assembly**